



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH

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31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 5th November 2017

Sunday Reflection – “Deeds must match words”—None of us like to be labeled “hypocrites”. It hurts because it challenges our integrity. It is a charge often levelled at religious people and especially religious leaders. It surfaces in today’s passage from Matthew’s gospel. Matthew himself was probably a scribe before becoming a disciple of Jesus. He wants to remain faithful to Jesus, the new Lawgiver. Towards the end of the first century he writes his gospel, addressing the Church at Antioch in Syria, a Church dominated by Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. The Christians see Jesus as the Messiah, his teaching as the new Law, and the Christian Church as the new Israel. An atmosphere of conflict if not hostility, prevails as Matthew writes his gospel. The Scribes and Pharisees seen as bad religious leaders and poor role models, because “they do not practice what they preach”. Generalized judgements are heaped upon them. These are understood in the light of the conflict operating at the time. Matthew warns against attitudes and practices exemplified by the Scribes and Pharisees. He is also concerned about the quality of leadership in the Christian Church and wants to ensure that none of these attitudes or practices creep into the leadership within his Church community. He insists that they do not imitate the obvious mistakes of the Scribes and Pharisees. The true and faithful Christian leader must reflect the example of Jesus, and if aspiring for any title, let it be that of “Servant”. All of us would do well to heed this advice – humble service is authentically Christ-like, anything else is a sham.

First Holy Communion Programme – The 2nd Session will be on Sunday 5th November 2017 at 9am (Prompt) in the Servite School Hall. After this session we will all go to the 10am Mass together. May the Lord bless us and guide us on this journey.

Our Call to Stewardship – We want to thank you all for your attention, co-operation and participation in our recent Financial Appeal. If you have not done so could you please collect your envelope or box. We want to thank you all for your great response and generosity.

Family Fast day: Because of our Parish Appeal in October for 3 weeks, we had to postpone our CAFOD Family Fast Day. This is now scheduled for Friday 10th November and the CAFOD Family Fast Collection will be at all Masses on week-end of 11th and 12th November, 2nd Collection. Our CAFOD Parish agents will speak to us on this week-end, 4-5th November telling us about the good work of CAFOD in El Salvador, this enabling the Church to continue the good work and example of caring for the poor set by the great Archbishop Oscar Romero as the prayer in his honour says: “We are prophets of a future not our own”. Let us support the good work.

Talk on Saint Pio: ‘Padre Pio’, much loved and well-known in the Church. There is a talk on the now Saint Pio from Pietrelcina which will be given by Fr. Domenico Vitulli here in our Church of Our Lady of Dolours on Thursday 9th November after the 10am Mass. Talk and Catechesis 10.45am in Church. All are welcome!

Sick & Retired Clergy: The special collection for “Sick & Retired Clergy” of the Order and Diocese is now on Sunday 19th November because of the necessary changes to the Diocesan schedule this year in our Parish.

Statement on Abortion: “This statement published by the Catholic Bishops of England, Wales & Scotland on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 UK Abortion Act is addressed to all people who seek to uphold the dignity of human life and protect the unborn child” Copies of the Executive Statement are available in the Colonnade together with copies of the full statement. More are available on request.

Bazaar Cancelled We apologize most sincerely for having to cancel our Christmas Bazaar on 2nd December 2017. This is due entirely to circumstances beyond our control. Other events are already pre-arranged in the area of the Parish, it is impossible to find an alternative Saturday. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused. We hope to have a pre-Easter Spring Bazaar. Watch this space for further information.

Parish Office Opening Hrs

Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm

(Lunch Hour 1.30pm – 2.30pm)

Mass Times

Vigil Mass: Sat 6.30pm

Sunday 8.30am

10am

(Spanish) 11.15am

12.15pm

7pm

Mon - Sat 10am

6.30pm

Sacrament of Confession

Mon - Fri 6.15 – 6.30pm

Saturday 10.45 – 11.15am

6.00 – 6.30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mon – Fri 10.30 am – 11.15am

Rosary – Wednesdays 10.30am, followed by Tea/Coffee in the Founders Room.

Legion of Mary – Every Tuesday at 7pm in the Library. New members are welcome!

Charismatic Prayer Group: Is on Thursdays at 11am in the Founders’ Room.

Saints Days

Tue 7th – St Willibrord

Fri 10th – St Leo the Great, Pope

Sat 11th – St Martin of Tours

Interested in becoming a

Catholic/Returning?

Applications for this programme are now available from the Parish Office. Contact Sr. Clementina or one of the Priests for more information about our RCIA Programme.

Toddler Group: Meets on Tuesday mornings at 9.30am. All are Welcome!